

DMH EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT – JAIME RENTERIA

We're starting up a new set of stories spotlighting LACDMH employees who shine! This week, we're featuring...

JAIME RENTERIA **MHS Coordinator II/SA 3 Program Administration**



Jaime has worked with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) for 18 years. He started his career with LACDMH in August 1996. He currently works as the MHS Coordinator II, assigned to SA 3 Program Administration, working in the Commonwealth building. Jaime is responsible for triaging referrals received from the Department of Health Services (DHS). He also serves as the point person for the SAAC 3 Meetings, works community events, conducts trainings and develops the San Gabriel Valley Multi-Faith Collaborative.

What do you like about your job? "I tell my kids that I get paid to do 'God's work'. As cheesy as it sounds, I'm a people person and I really enjoy sharing knowledge and helping others from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds."

Who/what inspires you? "My grandfather Antonio Viramontes served as a great role model and inspirational figure in my life along with my hero, my father. My wife and four kids inspire me every day to get up and enjoy the day. Historical figures that have had an influence in my life are Jesus, Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr."

What quote inspires you? "'Don't invite me... because I will come!' It means that you should always appreciate an invitation and attend the event, if you can. Because failing to do so is a missed opportunity to have a special moment and memory with the person who took the special time to invite you. My grandfather taught me that it is considered disrespectful to decline an invitation if, in fact, you are available to attend."

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? "I really enjoy grilling fish and fresh vegetables, attending my boys' football games, soccer games and musical performances, along with my daughter's cheerleading competitions. We enjoy celebrating the Sabbath on Sundays as family day, concluding with a sit-down dinner and grace. I enjoy working on my house by conducting

home improvement projects and maintaining the dozen fruit trees that I have planted throughout the years. I also enjoy helping my ailing father with the family business on the weekends. I enjoy jogging and celebrating my family member's birthdays and holidays. Lastly, we all enjoy our annual family vacation in the summer and, as a standing family rule, we never go to the same place twice. And, I'm also in the MPA program at Cal State Northridge."

Do you have any words of wisdom for other LACDMH employees? "Live, laugh and love as much as you can. Life is short. Enjoy your family and attend family/friends' parties when invited!"